Overcharging by pharma companies

1813. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that overcharging amount of Rs. 40 crores on Revital of Ranbaxy has not been paid yet;

(b) whether it is also a fact thai some other pharma companies have overcharged; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There is no case of overcharging of recovery pending in respect of Revital.

(b) and (c) Till the 31st March, 2004,184 notices for overcharging have been issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) towards an estimated overcharged amount and interest thereon to the tune of Rs. 555 crores, out of which NPPA has recovered about Rs. 64 crores in 126 cases. In some cases the companies have filed cases against the notices issued by the NPPA in various courts in the country and in some cases, courts have passed interim orders restraining the NPPA from taking further action against the petitioner companies.

Overcharging by Drug Producers and Retailers

1814. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: .

(a) whether a recent survey by the Drug Controller has revealed that the consumers are paying 6 to 30 times more than retailers's price for non-scheduled drugs like Nimesulide, Certrizine, Omeprazole etc;

(b) if so, whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority will invoke the Drug Price Control Order to rectify the situation; and

(c) the details of other steps being taken to prevent overcharging by drug producers and sellers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The bulk drugs Cetrizine, Nimesulide and Omeprazole and formulations based thereon are not under price control,

as per Drugs (Prices Control), 1995 (DPCO, 95). The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has collected data on trade margin being offered by the manufacturers to the retailers for a limited sample. It was noted that some manufacturers had offered high margin to the retailers. However, the market share of such medicines was small.

Cleansing of Union Carbide factory soil and environment

1815. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

SHRI BALAWANT alias BAL APTE;

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had been called upon by the Union Carbide Corporation of the US on a direction of the New York Court; to give a No-objection Certificate for the Corporation to undertake cleansing of the Union Carbide factory, soil and environment, by 30th July, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the NOC has since been issued; and

(c) what directions have been given to the Union Carbide Corporation in this regard and the steps since taken to cleanse the soil and the environment?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) So far, no such request has been received from the Union Carbide Corporation by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

Pricing of urea fertilizers

t1816. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the rates of secondary freight of urea;

(b) if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.